

## Conservation stamp issued

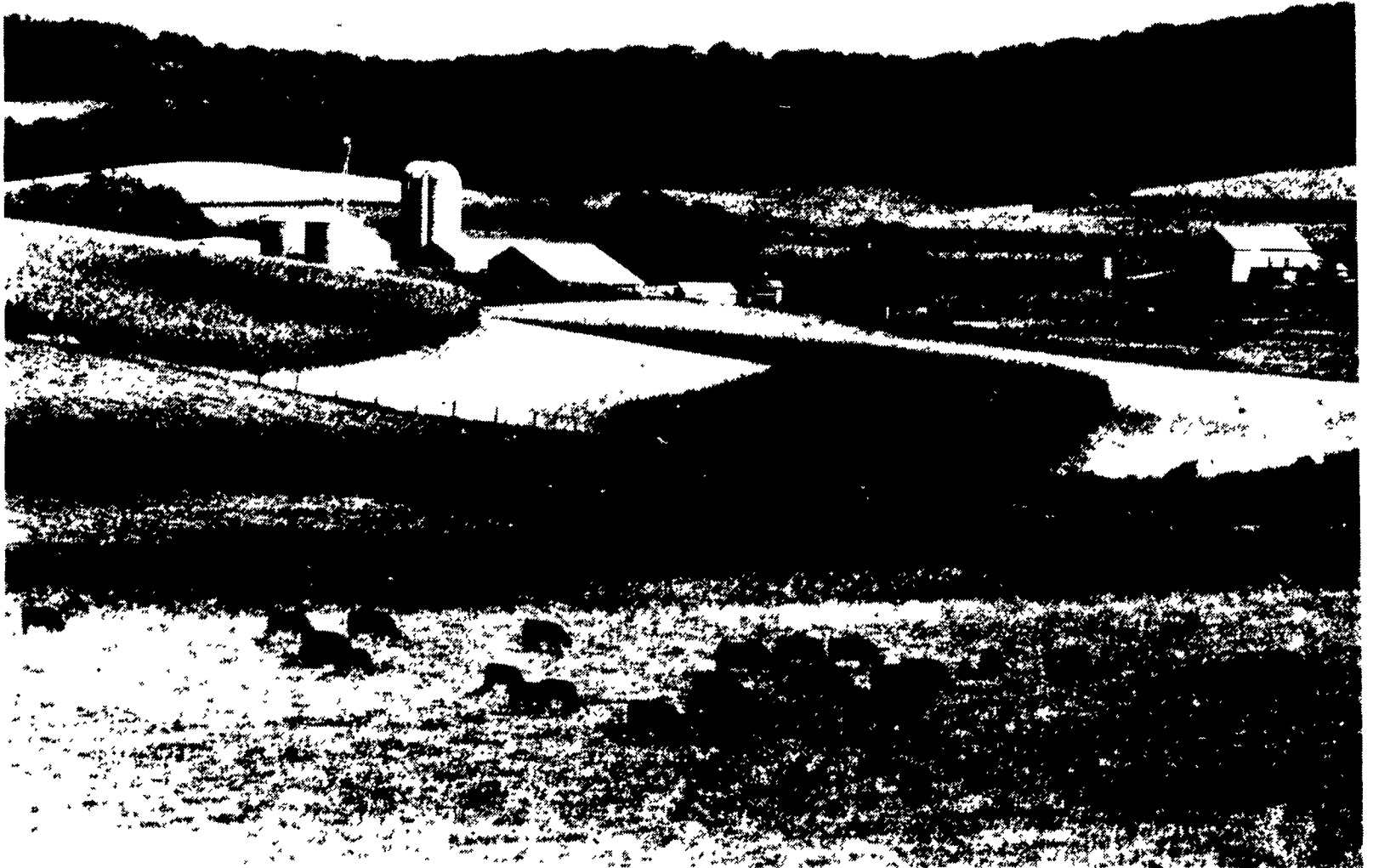
WASHINGTON, D.C. — A 20-cent commemorative stamp marking 50 years of soil and water conservation in the United States was issued by the U.S. Postal Service at the National Association of Conservation Districts convention in Denver, Colo., on Monday.

The soil and water conservation movement began in 1934 when the Soil Erosion Service in the U.S. Department of the Interior began to work directly with farmers through demonstration projects. In 1935, the agency was transferred to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Later that spring, when Congress passed Public Law 46, it became the Soil Conservation Service.

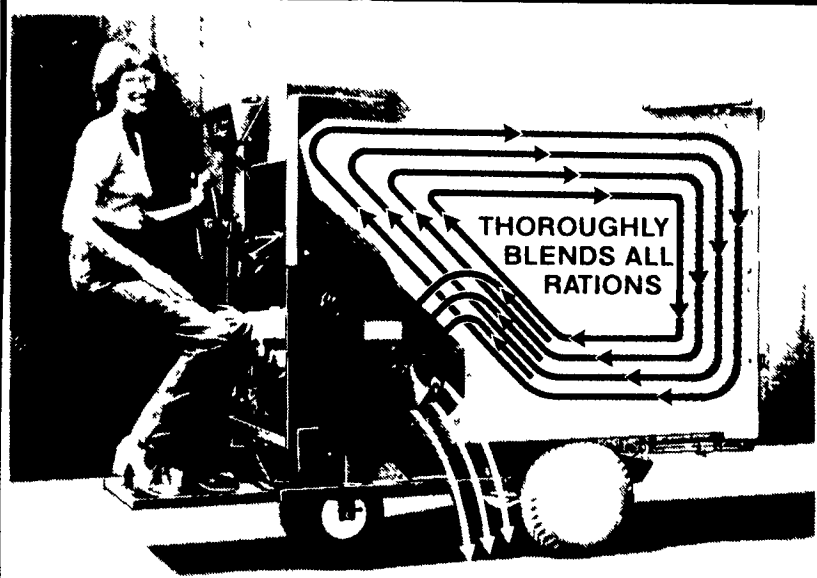
Today, the USDA agency works through nearly 3,000 local conservation districts — units of local government. The soil conservation movement is a voluntary one that has involved 2.5 million landowners and operators since its inception.

The National Association of Conservation Districts is a private group which provides information and support services to aid the nation's districts in the conservation and orderly development of the nation's natural resources.

The stamp depicts a stylized hand holding a flower against a black background. Bands of color run horizontally across the hand, symbolizing water and layers of soil. The stamp is in six colors and was designed by Michael David Brown of Rockville, Md.



This farm, owned by Norman and Paul Sellers, of Carroll County, Md., appeared on the official first day cover for the new stamp issued this week to honor a half-century of soil and water conservation in the U.S.



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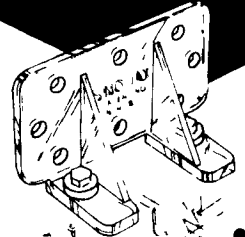
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